cussion and correspondence between Central Government and State Government. The progress on Yeleru canal was critically reviewed in recent meetings held with the State Government. As a result, a 3-member Task Force, comprising of one representative each of Central Government, State Government and VSP was set up on 22-1-90 to ensure completion of the balance works as fast as possible.

Duty reduction on import of finished graphic films

2004. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for duty reduction to the extent of 50 per cent on import of finished graphic art films in 1989 while the import duty on raw materials (Jumbo rolls) was retained at 146 per cent; and

(b) what are the names and addresses of the importers who had imported the graphic art films at the reduced duty for the equipments for processing graphic art films?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The rate of import duty on graphic art film was reduced to 40 per cent made in last year's budgets as a concession to the newspaper industry.

(b) Information regarding names and address of the persons who had imported graphic art film at the reduced rates, which is likely to be voluminous, is available in the Daily Lists publshed by the Custom Houses.

Duty reduction on import of Jumbo Rolls by Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company Limited

2005. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis on which duty reduction on import of jumbo rolls by Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company Ltd. was made;

(b) on what basis this duty reduction was made applicable to private units who had not been paying excise duties and sales tax;

(c) what is the extent of excise duties and sales tax paid by Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company Ltd. during the last five years and what is the amount of exemption enjoyed by the private sector units by non-payment of excise duties and sales tax; and

(d) what were the production and profits made by different private sector units engaged in the slitting and confectioning of photo sensitised goods from imported jumbo rolls?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Concessional rates of import duty on jumbo rolls of specified photographic or cinematographic materials are available to all imports holding industrial licences under the Industries Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for slitting and confectioning of photo-sensitised materials from jumbo rolls.

(c) and (d) The amounts paid by Hindusthan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited by way of central excise duty and sales tax during the last five years are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Central Excise duty	Sales Tax
1984–85 . .	611	1091
1985–86. . .	729	1092
1986–87. . .	702	1210
1987–88. . .	823	1317
1988–89. . .	844	1263

As regards the amount of exemption enjoyed by the private sector units by non-payment of excise duty and sales tax, presumably the reference is to units not paying excise duty or sales tax, but

holding an industrial licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), for slitting and confectioning of photo-sensitised materials from jumbo rolls. It is not possible to make any estimate whether and to what extent there is non-payment of excise duty and sales tax by these units. Statistical information regarding production and profits made by such units is not being maintained.

Import of Colour Photographic Jumbo Rolls

2006. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of the Directorate of Revenue and Intelligence have apprehended M|s. NPL importing high width colour photographic jumbo rolls as shorter width rolls and cheating Government of Customs duty to the tune of Rs. 4 to 5 crores as reported in the Indian Express, Bombay of the 1st February, 1990;

(b) whether the Directorate of Revenue and Intelligence is probing into their past imports as reported in the press; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check such clandestine imports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) In connection with the complaint regarding imports of photographic colour paper in jumbo rolls by misdeclaration of the width by M|s. Northern Plastics Ltd., joint searches were conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau on 24-1-90 at their office and factory premises. Incriminating documents and goods were seized during the searches Preliminary investigations reveal that the firm was misdeclaring the actual width of films. The past imports made by the firm are also being scrutinised. Investigations are in progress.

(c) Appropriate steps will be taken on completion of investigations.

Import of Jumbo Rolls

2007. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1984, the additional Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Industry advised CCI&E to permit import of jumbo rolls of photo sensitised goods only by HPF;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for Economic Adviser recommending import of jumbo rolls only by HPF;

(c) whether the jumbo rolls are subject to inspection at the ports;

(d) what is the annual tonnage of jumbo rolls being imported under OGL; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the jumbo rolls are being imported without being inspected at the customs; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation regarding import of jumbo rolls only by M|s. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd., was made having regard to large investments made by Government and in the light of the proposed expansion programme for integrated maunfacture of all photo-sensitised goods.

(c) and (e) Jumbo rolls of photo sensitive goods on import are subjected to inspection at all ports by the customs authorities before clearance. Inspection is done to verify the discription, length, width etc. With reference to the documents produced for clearance. The packages are not opened in entirety for